



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

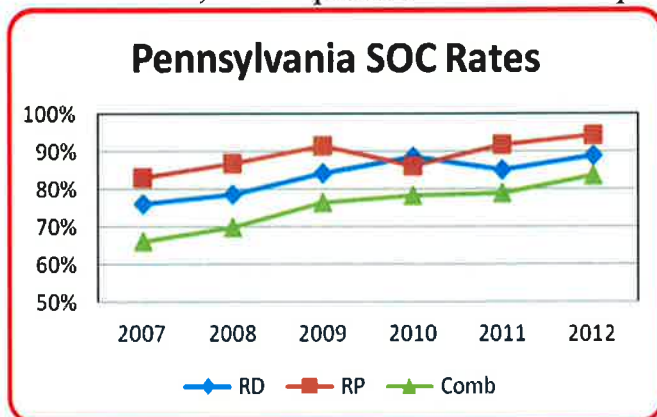
JUL 12 2012

Mr. George Hartenstein, Acting Director
Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8471

Dear Mr. Hartenstein:

On June 14, 2012, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted the FY12 mid-year review of the RCRA Subtitle "I" Underground Storage Tank (UST) and Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) programs of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields. A separate EPA mid-year report on the UST/LUST Program performance is not being prepared since the brevity of the program items allows for complete coverage in this letter. Your staff has had the opportunity to review this letter and offer comments.

Overall, EPA is pleased with PADEP's performance in the UST and LUST programs

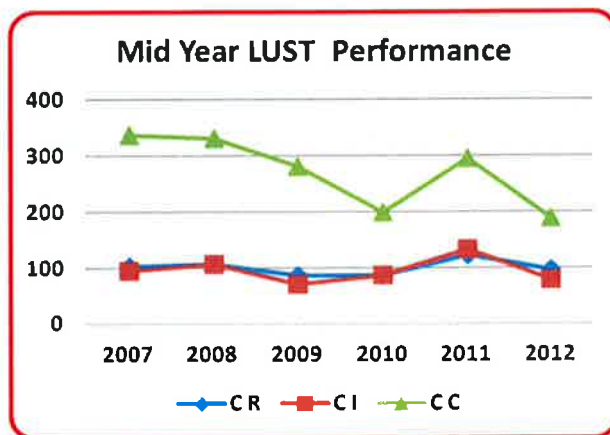


through mid-year FY12. In the UST program, the state has exceptional compliance rates. PADEP achieved SOC rates of 89.1% for Release Detection (verses 85.2% at MY11), 94.2% for Release Prevention (verses 91.9% at MY 11), and 83.6% for Combined Release Detection/Prevention (versus 79.1% at MY11). The Commonwealth achieved a total of 1,715 inspections with an inspection frequency of 2.4 years. EPA recognizes PADEP's efforts in this regard.

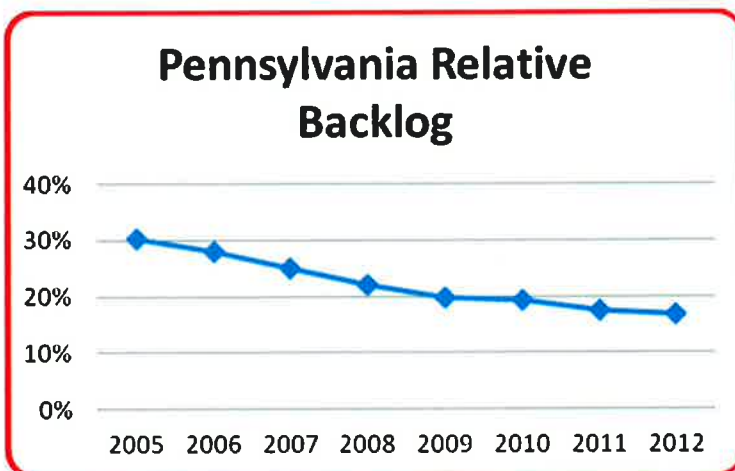
EPA appreciates the Commonwealth's work toward the accomplishment of the UST provisions of the Energy Policy Act (EPAAct). PADEP is fully implementing the requirements of the EPAAct.



In the LUST program, PADEP's cooperative agreement work plan specified a grant supported goal of 188 LUST site cleanups. PADEP achieved a total of 188 cleanups and has already accomplished its grant supported goal at mid-year. EPA appreciates the state's progress in the area.



EPA appreciates PADEP's participation in EPA's backlog reduction study. PADEP will continue to explore opportunities to accelerate cleanups and to make progress toward bringing all releases to closure. PADEP's backlog is continually decreasing and currently stands at 17.1%. EPA encourages PADEP to continue its work in this area.



EPA's Office of Analytical Services and Quality Assurance (OASQA) approved PADEP's QMP in January 2011. PADEP's QAPP was approved on August 2007. PADEP agreed to begin work to update its QAPP which will expire August 2012.

PADEP obligated and spent 100% of its stimulus funds. EPA appreciates PADEP's work in this area.

I thank your office for its productivity in implementing the UST, LUST and ARRA programs. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (215) 814-3143 or at ferdas.abe@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Abraham Ferdas
Abraham Ferdas, Director
Land and Chemicals Division

cc: G. Hartenstein, PADEP
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K. Shiffer, PADEP